



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

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United States Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Department of Interior Credit Union supervisor sentenced to 3 months incarceration for taking \$25,110 in depositors' funds**

WASHINGTON - A 37-year-old former employee of the Department of Interior Federal Credit Union, Monica Michals, was sentenced in federal court to 3 months incarceration on a charge of taking property in the care, custody and control of a credit union, for stealing more than \$25,000 in depositors' funds over a two-year period from 2006 to 2008, U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen announced today.

Michals, currently residing in Oxon Hill, MD., was sentenced today by United States District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Following the 3 months of incarceration, Ms. Michals will be on home detention with electronic monitoring for 180 days, as the first part of 3 years of supervised release. Ms. Michals was also ordered to complete outpatient drug treatment, and make full restitution to the Credit Union.

According to the government's evidence, Michals was employed by the Credit Union since 2000, first as a teller and later as a supervisor. Beginning in May 2006, and continuing until October 2008, Michals took money on 25 occasions from the accounts of at least three members of the Credit Union, two of whom were elderly and thus especially vulnerable victims. Michals used various methods to take the money, including making cash withdrawals from the victims' accounts, transferring money from the victims' accounts to her own (or on occasion to her mother's) account, and even at times having other tellers make withdrawals at her request (which she told the tellers were for the victims). Ms. Michals made unauthorized transfers into and out of various accounts to conceal the victims' balances, and flagged various accounts as "no mail" so that the victims and others would not learn of the thefts and unauthorized transactions.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Special Agent Denise Laws of the Department of Homeland Security Federal Protective Service. He also acknowledged the efforts of Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas and SEEP Student Sierra Tate, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Friedman, who is handling this prosecution.

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